



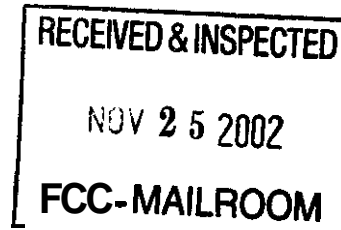
Kentucky League of Cities

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED June 24, 2002

ORIGINAL



The Honorable Michael Powell
 Chairman
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, SW
 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

Subject: Docket No. 02-150

BellSouth recently filed a petition to sell long distance service in the state of Kentucky. Based on all the information I have read and heard, I believe that petition should be approved. Kentucky's city governments **are** large users of telecommunications services and I know that they would benefit from increased competition in long distance.

It made sense to have some restrictions in place when AT&T and the Bell companies split up in **1984**. But there can be no doubt, 18 years later that the entire telecommunications market is intensely competitive. Open most telephone directories and you will find a dozen or more local service vendors. In Kentucky, 20 percent of the business market is already non-Bell, as well as over 70 percent of the high-speed Internet market. It is time now to clear the last obstacle to **full** competition; allow BellSouth to use its expertise and resources to improve overall rates and service throughout the industry.

While city governments in the Commonwealth purchase telecommunications services from several vendors, we would like the choice of considering BellSouth for our long distance needs. The ability to bundle long distance with other services will give BellSouth the ability to offer customers lower overall communications rates.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Sylvia L. Lovely
 Executive Director/CEO

cc: Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
 Commissioner Michael Copps
 Commissioner Kevin Martin
 Magalie Salas, Secretary FCC
 Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC
 Dorothy Atwood, Chief, FCC Wireline Competition Bureau
 Susan Pie, FCC Wireline Competition Bureau

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